



JILL BILLINGS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2015

Contact: Rep. Jill Billings
608-266-5780

Representative Jill Billings Releases Statement on Senate Joint Resolution 2

MADISON - Today, the Wisconsin Assembly met to consider its first piece of legislation of the 2015-16 session.

The first bill for consideration was SJR2 – a bill that seeks to make a constitutional amendment to the election process for the Supreme Court Chief Justice. SJR2 would overturn the historical precedent of seniority, and would call for a vote this spring to determine the Chief Justice.

Representative Jill Billings (D- La Crosse) issued the following statement concerning the legislative schedule of the day:

“In a state where we have high unemployment, a multibillion dollar deficit, underfunded schools, and struggling constituents looking for legislators to make positive changes for their futures, it is a shame that the very first bill we consider is a partisan power play,” said Billings.

Justice Shirley Abrahamson, a Republican political rival, is set to serve her term as Chief Justice until 2019. Should the bill pass, the amendment could remove Justice Abrahamson from her position as Chief Justice, and replace her with a Republican justice.

“This summer, I knocked on hundreds of doors in my district, asking the people of Wisconsin what changes they wanted to see in our state,” said Representative Jill Billings. “Not once did I hear someone say ‘you should change how we elect Supreme Court Justices.’”

“Our goal as legislators is to represent our constituents. It is clear that Republicans have the wrong priorities – they are putting partisan politics over job creation, special interests over middle-class families, and insider power plays over local economic growth.”

###